of West Bengal with regard to Darjaling Gorkha Hill Council *vide* their letter No 243-H dated 8th June, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government would agree to amend Sixth Schedule of the constitution to accommodate Darjaling Gorkha Hill Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Government of West Bengal *vide* their letter dated 8th June, 2000, have apprised the Central Government of the action taken by the State Government, on the basis of discussions held with the Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, Darjaling Gorkha Hill Council, in July, 1999. The Government of West Bengal are yet to move the Government of India on the specific recommendations of the Committee appointed by the State Government for the purpose.

Escalation in Anti-Christian Violence

414. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn *to* the news-item as appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 10th June, 2000 captioned "Archbishop denounces growing violence against Christians in Capital";

(b) if so, whether *Government have* ascertained the fact that there has been escalation in anti-christian violence in several parts of the country;

(c) whether there have been bomb blasts at churches in Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka on the 8th June, 2000; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The position has been ascertained from the concerned State Governments and it has been found that the incidents of violence involving Christians and their institutions have recently taken place in some parts of the country. Which incidents by and large relate to law and order/crime.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Although as per the provision of the Vllth Schedule List-II, State List of the Constitution of India, Law and Order is a State subject, yet the Central Government has been sharing intelligence inputs and sending advisories and

alert messages to the States from time to time. A high level meeting was convened on 4.7.2000 to review the situation and the State Governments were urged to provide security to the extent possible to the minorities and their institutions, and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violence against them. Following this after sustained investigations the involvement of an organization called the Deendar Anjuman has been established and five of its activists, have been arrested so far.

Development of Renewable Sources of Energy

415. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that renewable sources of energy in India are vast and environmental friendly, but the growth of this sector has been very limited;

(b) whether Government are reluctant to use this technology; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to develop, a long term strategy to increase the use of renewable sources of energy especially in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) India has a vast potential of renewable sources of energy which are eco-friendly and environmentally benign. The details of estimated potential in the country and achievements made under various non-conventional energy sources upto 31-3-2000 are given in the Statement annexed. *(See* below)

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Ministry is taking major policy initiatives to harness the renewable energy sources in the country by providing various fiscal and financial incentives and encouraging private sector participation and investment. The Ministry has prepared a draft Renewable Energy Policy Statement as a long-term strategy to increase the use of renewable sources of energy. The objective of the Government is to enhance the contribution of renewables, namely, solar, wind, biomass and small hydro with emphasis on meeting minimum rural energy needs and providing decentralized/off-grid supply for agriculture, industry, commercial and household sectors in rural areas.